

Appl. No. 10/696,084
Amdt. Dated August 31, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 28, 2004
Attorney Docket GEN001

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1.(currently amended) A method of no-till farming within soil, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a darkened stubble of a cultivated crop;
 - forming a furrow within the soil;
 - and introducing seed within the furrow whereby the darkened stubble absorbs energy radiation to warm the soil temperature.
- 2.(original) The method of claim 1 wherein the darkened stubble is residues of cultivated crops.
- 3.(original) The method of claim 2 wherein the cultivated crops are cereal grains.
- 4.(original) The method of claim 3 wherein the residues of cereal grain are selected from the group consisting of wheat, barley, oats and rice.
- 5.(original) The method of claim 1 wherein the darkened stubble is darkened by application of a dark colored pigment.
- 6.(original) The method of claim 1 wherein the darkened stubble is darkened by genetically altering the color of the stubble.
- 7.(currently amended) A method of no-till farming comprising providing a darkened stubble of a cultivated crop.
- 8.(original) The method of claim 7 wherein the darkened stubble is residues of cultivated crops.
- 9.(original) The method of claim 7 wherein the darkened stubble is residues of cereal grains.
- 10.(original) The method of claim 9 wherein the residues of cereal grain are selected from the group consisting of wheat, barley, oats and rice.
- 11.(original) The method of claim 7 wherein the darkened stubble is darkened by application of a dark colored pigment.
- 12.(original) The method of claim 7 wherein the darkened stubble is darkened by genetically altering the color of the stubble.